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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

**Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane**

**Thirteenth session**
Geneva, 24-25 September 2018
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
**Adoption of the agenda**

# Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 24 September 2018[1]

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Eighth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
5. Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019:
   (a) Best practices in the abatement, recovery and use of methane;
   (b) International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;

[1] Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register online (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48539) or by e-mail (cmm.energy@unece.org) if possible at least two weeks prior to the session. On the day of the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration at the Pregny Gate is open every work day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73966 or 71499).

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(c) Abandoned mine methane;

(d) Modernization of the energy sector as a pathway towards low-carbon energy and a green economy.

6. Gender issues and promoting broader inclusiveness.

7. Preparations for the fourteenth session of the Group of Experts.

8. Any other business.

9. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

# II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

## 1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division coal mine methane website[2] as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session also will be posted.

## 2. Election of officers

At its twelfth session, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years, until the end of 2019. A request for new nominations was sent to member States in May 2018. Any new nominations received will be considered by the Group of Experts.

## 3. Opening remarks

Opening remarks will be delivered covering recent achievements of the Group as well as its goals for the future in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The activities of the Group will be presented in the context of the most important developments in methane management, with an emphasis on coal mine methane.

## 4. Eighth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee

The Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is one of the Group of Experts' key stakeholders. The twenty-sixth meeting of the GMI Coal Subcommittee will be held within the framework of the thirteenth session of the ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and will discuss, amongst other issues, joint activities.

[2] http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html

## 5. Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019

The Bureau and the secretariat will report on the implementation of the Group of Experts' work plan for 2018-2019, wherein the Group of Experts has been asked to:

(a) Disseminate and Expand the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines;

(b) Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;

(c) Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;

(d) Contribute to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;

(e) Further engage in the work on transition of the coal industry in the ECE region, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;

(f) Continue to provide advice on coal mine methane related standards to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms. Engage and develop robust professional ties with the recognized expert entities operating in the field of fossil-based energy.

The Group of Experts has previously noted that it has an ambitious work plan for 2018-2019. In this context, the Group will discuss and explore opportunities to increase the participation of members in its activities to ensure successful implementation of the work plan. Ways to extend the Group's reach and expand its membership will also be discussed.

### (a) Best practices in the abatement, recovery and use of methane

The secretariat will inform the Group of Experts on the progress in implementation of the extrabudgetary project "Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery and use of methane, Phase II". The project, which is implemented through targeted, demand-driven workshops and seminars, is in support of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decision 222/2011 inviting "Members States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Best Practice Guidance [for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines (ECE Energy Series No. 31)] in countries worldwide."

The secretariat will present the work of the Sustainable Energy Division on methane management in extractive activities. The Group of Experts will be invited to discuss methods and practices in monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of methane emissions in the coal industry, with an emphasis on environmental aspects. The Group will discuss and consider developing an environmentally-focused Best Practice Guidance on MRV of methane emissions in the coal industry.

### (b) International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane

Representatives of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland and in China will report to the Group of Experts on the status and activities of the respective Centres. Annual reports for each Centre will be presented to the Group for

review and approval. Any countries considering hosting new Centres of Excellence will be given an opportunity to present their proposals to the Group. The Group will discuss and review the proposals presented and provide guidance on further steps to be taken by the prospective hosts.

**(c) Abandoned mine methane**

The potential to develop a joint project with the World Mining Congress, which is an international organization, on mapping abandoned mines will be discussed.

The Group of Experts will be introduced to the work of the World Mining Congress. The Group will then explore, within the scope of its mandate and terms of reference, the potential for closer cooperation with the organization in the field of emission reductions from the coal sector in general, and of coal mine methane in particular, and on the mapping of abandoned mines.

**(d) Modernization of the energy sector as a pathway towards low-carbon energy and a green economy**

A panel of international experts will discuss modernization of the energy sector as a pathway towards low-carbon energy and a green economy. The benefits and challenges related to technological modernization of the energy and mining sectors, with an emphasis on environmental and social aspects, will be explored. The Group of Experts will discuss and review the ongoing activities in this field undertaken by the entities represented on the panel and then assess them in terms of their consistency and complementarity with the work of the Group. The Group will recommend any future work on this topic.

## 6. Gender issues and promoting broader inclusiveness

In line with the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", a panel discussion will focus on targeting modes for broader inclusiveness in the Group's work and the value of diversity for innovation. The gender aspect of the issue will be explored, striving to identify barriers that prevent greater involvement of women in the mining and energy industries, and highlighting the benefits that diversity of the staff and the resulting multiplicity of the employees' experiences and worldviews can bring to companies operating in these sectors.

The Group of Experts will discuss the information provided, including how gender issues and the empowerment of women could be better addressed in its work.

## 7. Preparations for the fourteenth session of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss the preparations for its fourteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The fourteenth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled tentatively for November 2019 in Geneva back-to-back with the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, unless the Group of Experts decides otherwise.

## 8. Any other business

The meeting may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts. To the

extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the Chair and the secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues under Item 8.

### 9. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

Draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

### 10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat, following which the Chair will close the meeting.

## III. Tentative timetable

Below is a tentative timetable that is subject to change. An updated timetable will be posted on the ECE Coal Mine Methane website dedicated to the thirteenth session[3].

| *Time* | *Agenda item* | |
|---|---|---|
| **24 September 2018** | | |
| 10:05 | Item 1: | Adoption of the agenda |
| 10:10 | Item 2: | Election of officers |
| 10:15 | Item 3: | Opening remarks |
| 10:35 | Item 5: | Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019 |
| 10:50 | Item 4: | Eighth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee |
| 11:30 | *Coffee break* | |
| 11:45 | Item 4: | Eighth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee (continued) |
| 13:00 | *Lunch* | |

[3] http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48539

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|---|---|---|
| 15:00 | Item 4: | Eighth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee (continued) |
| 16:30 | *Coffee break* | |
| 16:45 | Item 4: | Eighth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee (continued) |
| 18:00 | Networking Event | |

**25 September 2018**

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|---|---|---|
| 10:00 | Item 5: | Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019 (continued) |
| 11:10 | *Coffee break* | |
| 11:25 | Item 5: | Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019 (continued) |
| 13:00 | *Lunch* | |
| 14:30 | *Coffee break* | |
| 15:00 | Item 6: | Gender issues and promoting broader inclusiveness |
| 15:40 | Item 5: | Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019 (continued) |
| 17:15 | Item 7: | Preparations for the fourteenth session of the Group of Experts |
| 17:20 | Item 8: | Any other business |
| 17:30 | Item 9: | Adoption of conclusions and recommendations |
| 17:45 | Item 10: | Adoption of the report and close of the meeting |
| 18:00 | *End of the session* | |